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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/896,116	SEINO, TAKEO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Charles W. Stewart, Jr.	2853	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appeal claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS therewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIP of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313	(OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this ap or other appropriate communication GHTS. This application is subject to and MPEP 1308.	plication. If not included n will be mailed in due cours	
1. X This communication is responsive to Amendment filed Apn	<u> 11 20, 2004</u> .		
2. ⊠ The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-32</u> .			
3. $igotimes$ The drawings filed on $28$ September 2001 are accepted by	the Examiner.		
<ul> <li>4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority una) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:</li> <li>1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have</li> <li>International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</li> <li>* Certified copies not received:</li> </ul>	been received. been received in Application No		om the
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONM THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		complying with the requiren	nents
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be subm INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which give	itted. Note the attached EXAMINER es reason(s) why the oath or declara	t'S AMENDMENT or NOTIC ation is deficient.	E OF
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") mus	st be submitted.		
(a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftspers	son's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO	-948) attached	
1) 🗌 hereto or 2) 📗 to Paper No./Mail Date			
(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Paper No./Mail Date	s Amendment / Comment or in the 0	Office action of	
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1 each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in t	.84(c)) should be written on the drawi he header according to 37 CFR 1.121(	ngs in the front (not the back) $(d)$ .	) of
<ol> <li>DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the depo attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT</li> </ol>	SIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL ( FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGIC	must be submitted. Note t AL MATERIAL.	he
Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. Notice of Informal F	Patent Application (PTO-152	2)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. Interview Summary	/ (PTO-413),	•
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/0	Paper No./Mail Da 08), 7. ☐ Examiner's Amend	ite ment/Comment	
Paper No./Mail Date  4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit	8. ⊠ Examiner's Statem	ent of Reasons for Allowand	e
of Biological Material	9.	Stephen D. Meier Primary Examiner	

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## Reason for Allowance

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The following is a statement of reasons for allowable subject matter:

The inclusion of the claimed invention is not found in the prior art. The different is considered patentable over the prior art of record, reflects an improvement in the field of endeavor. Claims 1-8, 10 and 18-21, recites the limitation of at least at a same position as a position, at which the ink cartridge is to be mounted to the recording apparatus and at least one plug element, provided in a regions corresponding to an ink supply port of the ink cartridge, for sealing an ink supply needle that supplies ink to an ink jet recording head wherein said maintenance cartridge is a dummy cartridge that does not store fluid or supply fluid to the recording apparatus. Claims 9 and 22-23, recites the limitation of wherein the outward form distinguishes the maintenance cartridge from an ink cartridge, wherein the maintenance cartridge does not store fluid or supply fluid to the recording apparatus. Claims 11 and 24-25, recites the limitation of wherein when the control system detects, based on the data read from the memory device of the maintenance cartridge, that the maintenance cartridge is attached to the recording apparatus, the control system executes a substitute printing operation using ink in the ink cartridge or ink cartridge mounted to the recording apparatus. Claims 12-17 and 26-29, recites the limitation of at least one maintenance cartridge mounted to the recording apparatus, and provided with at least one plug element corresponding in location to the at least one ink supply port of the ink cartridge, wherein the at least one plug element seals the at least one ink supply needle, wherein the at least one

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maintenance cartridge does not fluid or supply fluid to the recording head. Claims 30-32, recites the limitation of a recording head and an ink supply passage providing a fluid connection to the recording head; and a plug element that seals the ink supply passage that supplies ink to the recording head wherein the body is incapable of holding fluid or supplying fluid to the recording head.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowable."

## Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Examiner Charles Stewart, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-2154. The Examiner can normally be reached on Full time.

Charles Stewart, Jr.

July 14, 2004

Stephen D. Meier **Primary Examiner**